



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Washington DC 20420

August 7, 2017

In Reply Refer To: 001B  
**FOIA Request: 18-10934-F**

Ryan Mulvey, Esq.  
Counsel  
Cause of Action Institute  
1875 Eye Street NW, Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20006  
[ryan.mulvey@causeofaction.org](mailto:ryan.mulvey@causeofaction.org)

Dear Mr. Mulvey, Esq.:

This is the Initial Agency Decision to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OSVA) dated and received on August 1, 2018, and assigned FOIA tracking number **18-10934-F**. You requested: "All records, including but not limited to communications, memoranda, guidelines, procedures, processing metrics, and tracking tables, concerning 'sensitive review' FOIA processes, including any process for the handling of 'politically charged' or 'high visibility' requests or those submitted by representatives of the news media. The scope of this item includes any records defining or describing the sensitive review process."

To clarify, the VA OGC (**18-10935-F**), OIT (**18-10936-F**), and OIG (**18-10941-F**) FOIA offices will issue or have issued separate responses for their own respective FOIA offices.

**Initial Agency Decision**

On August 6, 2018, the OSVA FOIA Officer searched through his paper and electronic FOIA folders for responsive records relating to "sensitive review" FOIA requests. OSVA identified a February 11, 2014, Memorandum titled "Release of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Information." OSVA releases this two (2) page Memorandum in full without redactions.

**FOIA Mediation**

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. Under the provisions of the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016, the following contact information is provided to assist FOIA requesters in resolving disputes:

**VA Central Office FOIA Public Liaison:**

Name: John Buck  
Email Address: [vacofoiaservice@va.gov](mailto:vacofoiaservice@va.gov)

**Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)**

Email Address: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Mailing address:  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road

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College Park, MD 20740-6001

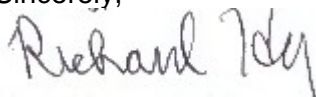
**FOIA Appeal**

This concludes OSVA's response to request **18-10934-F**. Please be advised that should you desire to do so, you may appeal the determination made in this response to:

Office of General Counsel (024)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

If you should choose to file an appeal, please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly indicate the basis for your disagreement with the determination set forth in this response. Please be advised that in accordance with VA's implementing FOIA regulations at 38 C.F.R. § 1.559, your appeal must be postmarked no later than ninety (90) days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Richard Ha". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Ha, JD, CIPP/G  
OSVA FOIA Officer

Attachment – February 11, 2014, Memorandum titled “Release of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Information”